

BE AWARE. AVOID THE RISKS.

By assessing the risk and taking some precautions we can do a lot to reduce the danger of lead poisoning. Please call any of the following numbers for additional information and assistance.

1-877-DCA-LEAD

BLOOD LEAD SCREENING

Call your local Department of Health

HOUSING PROGRAMS

Call your local housing agency
or community development office



YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
EAT
LEAD
CHIPS
TO GET
LEAD
POISONING



JUST BREATHING LEAD DUST PARTICLES CAN DO IT.

Lead Poisoning = unacceptably high levels of lead in the blood

Lead gets into the body by eating, drinking, or breathing lead particles.

Lead poisoning initially has NO VISIBLE SYMPTOMS. But over time it can cause:

- Brain and Nerve Damage
- Loss of Muscle control
- Learning disabilities
- Hyperactivity
- Kidney Damage
- Mental Retardation
- Death, if poisoning is severe

Particularly in:

Children under six years of age, pregnant women, painters and contractors, and others who work in environments with high concentrations of lead dust and debris.

ARE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AT RISK?

Although lead paint was banned in 1978, layers of paint containing lead may remain on painted surfaces. In New Jersey, most homes were built before 1978.

AGE OF THE HOUSE BUILT	LIKELIHOOD OF LEAD IN PAINT
Before 1940	90% Chance
Before 1959	80% Chance
Between 1960 & 1978	62% Chance

*U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

DO NOT DISTURB LEAD, AND IT WILL MOST LIKELY NOT DISTURB YOU.

Lead-based paint on walls, window, railings, etc. is not a problem unless it is:

- Deteriorating (peeling, flaking, chipping)
- Disturbed (scraped, sanded)
- Destroyed (removed chemically or with flame)

1) Check inside your home for problems that can affect painted surfaces, such as leaky roofs, pipes, or radiator valves. On the outside of the home, lead paint was primarily used on railings, columns, porches, siding and trim. Check for damage that is dislodging lead chips or dust.

2) If you are planning any home improvements or renovations -- please review these basic precautions:

- Keep children and pregnant women out of the work area.
- Remove or cover furniture, rugs, toys, soil, shrubbery, sandboxes, etc. that may get covered with lead dust.
- Close off the work area with 6 mil plastic taped securely in place.
- Request contractors to use work methods that do not scatter dust. (Do not sandblast or powerwash, do not use open flame or torch burn paint, do not dry scrape paint.)
- Consider buying or renting a HEPA vacuum that can pick up tiny lead particles.